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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/CD: DUTCH SUPPORT FOR THE COMMUNITY OF  
DEMOCRACIES

REF: SECSTATE 129764

¶1. (U) POLOFF delivered reftel points to Ruth Emmerink, Senior Policy Officer in the Department of Human Rights and Peacebuilding at the Dutch MFA. Emmerink indicated that Ambassador Piet de Klerk, formerly ambassador for human rights and now deputy permrep at the UN, would represent the Netherlands at the CD meeting on the October 1. Minister for Development Cooperation Koenders is likely to represent the Netherlands at the November 15-17 ministerial. Emmerink praised the Secretary's participation at the 2005 Santiago ministerial and encouraged her attendance in Bamako this year.

¶2. (U) The Netherlands will support Mali's efforts as Chair of the CD ministerial, and the Dutch welcome the theme "Democracy and Development." However, although the Dutch have considered contributing to the UN Democracy Fund (UNDEF), they still have "major doubts." The framework for UNDEF contemplated both funding and a strategic discussion of how best to support democracy, but the strategic discussion element has been lacking.  
Gallagher